

METHOD FOR PRODUCING AROMATIC CARBONATES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0080] A method for economically producing aromatic carbonates from aromatic hydroxy compounds is disclosed which in one embodiment comprises the steps of : (i) contacting at a temperature sufficient to keep the mixture molten at least one aromatic hydroxy compound with a catalyst composition comprising the following and any reaction products thereof: (A) at least one Group 8, 9, or 10 metal or a compound thereof; (B) at least one salt; (C) at least one metal co-catalyst; and (D) optionally, at least one activating solvent; (ii) optionally heating the mixture at atmospheric pressure to a temperature above that sufficient to keep the mixture molten; (iii) pressurizing the mixture with carbon monoxide; (iv) optionally heating the mixture under pressure of carbon monoxide to a temperature above that sufficient to keep the mixture molten; (v) optionally maintaining the mixture under pressure of carbon monoxide for a time period; (vi) introducing oxygen to the mixture to a desired concentration of oxygen in carbon monoxide; (vii) starting gas flow to the mixture at a desired concentration of oxygen and carbon monoxide; (viii) optionally maintaining gas flow for a time period at less than a desired ultimate temperature for the mixture; and (ix) optionally heating the mixture to a desired ultimate temperature under flow of gases.